

Cotton, Robert C., Maj.

1932

(Historical Section,
Army War College
Washington, DC)

Historical Section
THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE

IN REPLY REFER TO

~~OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT~~

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 15, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street & Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Beloté of the Smithsonian Institute, I am writing to you in regard to some medals which I procured some years ago in France. These medals are as follows:

A gold plated medal bearing the head of Napoleon on the obverse with the following inscription:

"Hist. de La Revolution de l'Empire de
La Restauration et de La Mon. de 1830.
Publié Parpourrat Frères a Paris."

On the edge of the medal is stamped:

"C. Doré."

On the reverse is a beautiful piece of medallion work showing the return of Napoleon's body to the Hotel des Invalides.

A bronze medal bearing on the obverse:

"Napoleon I Empereur Des Français Roi
D'Italie" with the bust of Napoleon.

On the reverse, in French:

"Je Désire Que Mes Cendres Reposent Sur
Les Rives De La Seine. (Dernières
Volontés De Napoléon). Louis Philippe
I^{er}. Regnant Les Cendres De Napoléon

Sont Transportées De L'Ile St^e. Hélène En
France Sur La Frégate La Belle Poule Commandée
Par M^r. Le P^{ce}. de Joinville et Déposées dans
le Hôtel Royal des Invalides Le 15 Décembre
1840. En Exécution de la Loi du 10 Juin M^r.
le C^{te}. Duchatel Min^e. de l'Intérieur. M^r.
le M^{al}. Moncey Gouv^r. des Invalides."

A bronze medal bearing on the obverse the head of
Napoleon and inscription "Napoleon I Empere^{ur}."
On the reverse "Campagnes de 1792 a 1815. A Ses
Compagnons De Gloire Sa Dernière Pensée Ste. Hélène
5 Mai 1821." This medal has a ring in the top and was
formerly worn with a ribbon which had the same colors
as the World War Croix de Guerre.

A little bronze statuette of Napoleon about two inches
high of unusual workmanship.

A silver bronze religious medal bearing the date 600
with an old Latin inscription on each side, oval in
shape, and bearing on the obverse side a bust of the
Saviour and on the reverse a symbolical religious de-
vice. This was found in the moat of the castle of the
Duke of Brittany.

A framed ivory miniature by the famous miniaturist
Isabey, miniature proper about two inches in diameter.

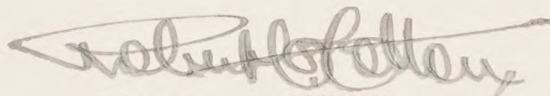
I procured these from a family, with whom I lived at Fontain-
bleau, who claimed to be descendants of Josephine. I believe there is no
question as to the authenticity of these curios.

Although I do not seek to dispose of these at the present time,
I would like to ask if you can give me the address or addresses of Napoleona
collectors, in order that I may get a fair estimate of the value of these
in normal times.

Any advice that you may give me concerning the values or
collectors will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you very much in advance, I am

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. COTTON
Major, U. S. Army
Historical Section, A.W.C.

January 20, 1932.

Major Robert C. Cotton
Historical Section
The Army War College
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your French medals have no particular value as they are still considered in the common class. Also, they sell for very little over here as there are so few collectors of these and most of the collectors have everything but the great rarities.

Your two round medals would sell at auction in this country anywhere from twenty-five cents to one dollar each. The St. Helena medal with the ribbon was given in 1857 to all veterans of the Napoleonic wars and is still very common. It sells on an average for seventy-five cents. Your small statue in miniature I can tell you nothing about. The little bronze religious medal is virtually worth nothing in this country, as these are not collected over here. It may have been made anywhere in the 18th or 19th century. The date 600 refers to some event or birth of some saint, as no dates were used on medals until several centuries later.

Your might write to Charles E. Fowler, 25 Church Street, New York City.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator